

SENATE BILL 709

By Tate

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary
financial assistance from net lottery proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() "TEL financial assistance grant" means a Tennessee education lottery financial assistance grant awarded pursuant to § 49-4-941;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following language as a new section to be designated as follows:

§ 49-4-941.

(a) To be eligible for a TEL financial assistance grant a student shall:

(1) Not be ineligible for a grant under § 49-4-904;

(2)

(A) Meet all nonacademic requirements for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship or Tennessee HOPE access grant as an entering freshman or as a transfer student under § 49-4-929 in the 2009-2010 academic year or an academic year thereafter; or

(B) Be a first-time recipient of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship for nontraditional students during the 2009-2010 academic year or an academic year thereafter;

(3) Qualify for an award under the federal Pell grant program;

(4) Make application for the TEL financial assistance grant; and

(5) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution.

(b) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly and any provision of law relating to a shortfall in funds available for postsecondary financial assistance from the net proceeds of the state lottery, a TEL financial assistance grant shall be one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for full-time attendance for the 2009-2010 academic year. For academic years subsequent to the 2009-2010 academic year, the amount of such scholarship shall be determined in accordance with § 4-51-111 and shall be set in the general appropriations act.

(c) To continue to receive a TEL financial assistance grant, a student shall continue to meet all applicable nonacademic requirements for the Tennessee HOPE scholarship, shall maintain satisfactory progress at the institution in which the student is enrolled as required by the federal Pell grant program and shall reapply for the grant when reapplying for the Pell grant.

(d) Receipt of a TEL financial assistance grant shall be subject to the limitations of § 49-4-913. Section 49-4-919 shall apply to students receiving a TEL financial assistance grant.

(e) A student who does not qualify for a Pell grant shall be ineligible for a TEL financial assistance grant. If a student receiving a TEL financial assistance grant ceases to be eligible for the TEL financial assistance grant at any time for any reason, then the student shall not be able to regain the TEL financial assistance grant.

(f) A student shall receive the TEL financial assistance grant even though the student qualifies for no other postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds or in addition to any other postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds for which the student qualifies.

SECTION 3. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to students who are seeking postsecondary assistance from net lottery proceeds for the 2009-2010 academic year and academic years thereafter.